

type record defining a provided relation type[,]  
associating said desired entity type with a provided  
entity type, and iv) relation instance table means  
 comprised of at least one relation instance record which  
 defines a relation of said provided relation type between  
 said desired entity instance record and a provided entity  
 instance record, wherein said entity definition table  
 means, said entity instance table means, said relation  
 definition table means and said relation instance  
 definition means are part of a relational database;

means, operatively coupled to said relation  
 definition table means, using said provided relation type,  
 for retrieving from said relation definition table means  
 said relation type record defining said provided relation  
 type;

means, operatively coupled to said relation  
 definition table retrieving means and to said relation  
 instance table means, using said relation type record, for  
 retrieving from said relation instance table means a  
 specific relation instance record containing said provided  
 relation type and said provided entity instance record,  
 wherein said desired entity instance record is specified  
 in said specific relation instance record by a desired  
 entity type and a desired entity record identifier;

means, operatively coupled to said relation instance  
 retrieving means and said entity definition table means,  
 using said desired entity type, for retrieving from said  
 entity definition table means a desired entity type record  
 defining said desired entity type; and

means, operatively coupled to said entity type record  
 retrieving means and said entity instance table means,  
 using said desired entity type and said desired record  
 identifier, for retrieving from said entity instance table  
 means said desired entity instance record;

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wherein a desired entity instance table is specified by said desired entity type record; and

further wherein said desired entity instance record is a record identified by said desired entity record identifier in said entity instance table means.

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82. (Amended) A computer method for retrieving a desired entity of a desired entity type from a relational database wherein said desired entity is related to a provided entity by a provided relation type[,] associating said provided entity type with said desired entity type, said method comprising:

retrieving from relation definition table means, which comprises at least one relation type record defining a relation type, of said relational database a specific relation type record wherein said specific relation type record defines said provided relation type;

retrieving from relation instance table means corresponding to said specific relation type record of said relational database, based on said specific relation type record and said provided entity, a specific relation instance record defining a relation of said provided relation type between, said provided entity and said desired entity wherein said relation instance record specifies said desired entity by a desired entity type and a desired record identifier;

retrieving from entity definition table means of said relational database, based on said desired entity type and said desired record identifier, a desired entity type record wherein said desired entity type record [defines] contains said desired entity type and specifies a desired entity instance table of said relational database, associated with said desired entity type; and

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